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Kathryn Mason, Matthew Mason,
6 Caroline Mason, and Nicholas Mason

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

In Re Case No. 19-30088-DM

10 PG&E CORPORATION. Chapter 11

11 || and (Lead Case

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC
COMPANY**

**MOTION TO ALLOW/DEEM
TIMELY LATE FILING OF**

14 || Debtors.

**MOTION TO ALLOW/DEEM
TIMELY LATE FILING OF
KATHRYN MASON, MATTHEW
MASON, CAROLINE MASON, AND
NICHOLAS MASON, AND
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND
AUTHORITIES AND
DECLARATION OF ROBERT BONE
IN SUPPORT THEREOF**

Date: April 12, 2022

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Via ZOOM or Telephone

*All papers shall be filed in the Lead Case, No. 19-30088-DM

19

Movants Kathryn Mason, Matthew Mason, Caroline Mason, and Nicholas Mason (“Movants”) file this motion to deem timely a late filed proof of claim, Claim No. 108259, filed on February, 24, 2022.

I. Summary of Argument

A proof of claim may be deemed timely upon a showing of excusable neglect and lack of prejudice. In this case, due to a variety of stressors and personal factors arising from the 2017 fires (“North Bay Fires”), Movants were unable to timely file their proof

**MOTION TO ALLOW/DEEM TIMELY LATE FILING OF PROOF OF CLAIM BY MOVANTS
KATHRYN MASON, MATTHEW MASON, CAROLINE MASON, AND NICHOLAS MASON, AND
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION OF ROBERT BONE IN
SUPPORT THEREOF.** Page 1

1 of claim. Because there is no danger of prejudice to the Debtors, as Debtors' estates are
2 solvent, and all creditors in these cases stand to be paid, the Motion should be granted to
3 allow the Movants to have the claim deemed timely.

4

II. 5 Factual Background

6 **A. Pertinent Bankruptcy Background.**

7 On January 29, 2019, PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company
8 ("Debtors" or "PG&E") commenced the above-captioned voluntary Chapter 11 cases
9 ("Chapter 11 Cases"). PG&E's Chapter 11 filings were necessitated by a confluence of
10 factors resulting from catastrophic fires that occurred in Northern California prior to the
Petition Date, and PG&E's potential liabilities arising therefrom.

11 The deadline for filing proofs of claim with respect to any prepetition claim
12 including, but not limited to, all claims of Fire Claimants, Wildfire Subrogation
13 Claimants, Governmental Units and Customers, and all secured and priority claims
14 against the Debtors was October 21, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. ("General Bar Date").

15 The deadline for filing claims was extended to December 31, 2019 ("Extended
16 Bar Date"), solely for the benefit of any non-governmental Fire Claimants who did not
17 file proofs of claim by the General Bar Date. [See Docket No. 4672]

18 On January 31, 2020, as Docket No. 5590, Debtors filed an Amended Chapter 11
19 Plan Debtor's and Shareholder Proponents' Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization
20 Dated January 31, 2020.

21 On February 7, 2020, as Docket No. 5700, Debtors filed a Disclosure Statement
22 for the Amended Plan.

23 On February 19, 2020, as Docket No. 5835, Debtors filed their Motion for Entry
24 of an Order (I) Approving Form and Manner of Notice of Hearing on Proposed
25 Disclosure Statement; (II) Establishing and Approving Plan Solicitation and Voting
26 Procedures; (III) Approving Forms of Ballots, Solicitation Packages, and Related
27 Notices; and (IV) Granting Related Relief ("Solicitation Procedures Motion").

28 **MOTION TO ALLOW/DEEM TIMELY LATE FILING OF PROOF OF CLAIM BY MOVANTS
KATHRYN MASON, MATTHEW MASON, CAROLINE MASON, AND NICHOLAS MASON, AND
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION OF ROBERT BONE IN
SUPPORT THEREOF - Page 2**

1 On March 17, 2020, the Solicitations Procedures Motion was Approved.

2 After filing multiple iterations of the Plan, on June 19, 2020, as Docket No. 8048,
3 Debtors filed an Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization dated June 19, 2020
4 (the “Final Plan”).

5 One June 20, 2020, post-voting and hotly contested confirmation hearings, the
6 Bankruptcy Court entered an order confirming the Final Plan. [Docket No. 8053]

7 **B. Movants’ Claims Arising from the North Bay Fires.**

8 Movants are survivors of the North Bay Fires which occurred in 2017. At the
9 time, Movants owned the real property located at 306 Westbrook Drive, Santa Rosa, CA
10 95401 (the “Property”). The Property, as well as personal property of the Movants, was
11 substantially damaged from smoke, soot, and ash. Moreover, the Movants were
12 displaced (after being required to evacuate) and suffered substantial personal damages,
13 nuisance, emotional distress due to proximity of the zone of danger, among other things.

14 Due to substantial trauma, relocation, and the immense pressure resulting from
15 the foregoing, the Movants did not become aware of the relevant bar dates in time to
16 timely file the claim. It was not until after the Extended Bar Date and Claims
17 Questionnaire Deadline that Movants realized their damages may be compensable and
18 that they should file a proof of claim for their losses.

19 **C. Discovery of Movants’ Claims.**

20 I have recently met with the Movants to discuss their claim/case, who
21 contacted my office. After meeting with the Movants, I prepared the Subject Proof of
22 Claim.

23 Accordingly, on February 24, 2022, the Law Office of Robert M. Bone filed
24 Claim No 108259, on behalf of the Movants. A true and correct copy of the subject
25 Proof of Claim is attached to the Declaration of Robert M. Bone as Exhibit 1, submitted
26 herewith.

27 Thus, the Movants now bring this Motion to deem timely their tardy Proof of

28 **MOTION TO ALLOW/DEEM TIMELY LATE FILING OF PROOF OF CLAIM BY MOVANTS
KATHRYN MASON, MATTHEW MASON, CAROLINE MASON, AND NICHOLAS MASON, AND
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION OF ROBERT BONE IN
SUPPORT THEREOF - Page 3**

Claim.

III. **Legal Argument**

In a Chapter 11 case, the time to file a proof of claim may be extended under certain Circumstances. Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure (“FRBP”) 3003(c)(3); FRBP 9006(b)(1). The bankruptcy court has “broad equitable powers” in a Chapter 11 case with respect to the timing requirements for proofs of claim *Pioneer Inventory Services v. Brunswick Associates Limited Partnership*, 507 U.S. 380, 389 (1993). Moreover, Rule 9006(b)(1) allows “late filings caused by inadvertence, mistake, or carelessness, not just those caused by intervening circumstances beyond a party’s control.” *Id.* at 381. Even a creditor that did in fact receive notice may file a proof of claim notwithstanding the expiration of a claims bar date in a Chapter 11 case upon a showing of “excusable neglect.” *Id.*, at 394-95 (“Had respondents here been prevented from complying with the bar date by an act of God or some other circumstance beyond their control, the Bankruptcy Court plainly would have been permitted to find ‘excusable neglect’ [under FRBP 9006].”).

In considering whether a creditor's failure was the product of "excusable neglect," the Court should take account of the following: all relevant circumstances surrounding the party's omission, including (1) the danger of prejudice to the debtor, (2) the length of the delay and its potential impact on judicial proceedings, (3) the reason for the delayed, including whether it was within the reasonable control fo the movant, and (4) whether the movant acted in good faith. *Id.*, at 395; See also *Corning v. Corning (In re Zilog, Inc.)*, 450 F.3d 996 (9th Cir. 2006)(noting *Pioneer*'s non-exhaustive list of relevant factors). Again, a late-filed proof of claim is allowable where a creditor had actual notice fo the bankruptcy, but, due to some external reason, failed to file a proof of claim or did not realize that she or he had to prior to the bar date. See, e.g., *ZiLOG, Inc. V. Corning (In re ZiLOG, Inc.)*, 450 F.3d 996, 1003-1007 (9th Circ. 2006) (applying the *Pioneer* factors). Here, consideration of all four *Pioneer* factors—as well as the fifth

**MOTION TO ALLOW/DEEM TIMELY LATE FILING OF PROOF OF CLAIM BY MOVANTS
KATHRYN MASON, MATTHEW MASON, CAROLINE MASON, AND NICHOLAS MASON, AND
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION OF ROBERT BONE IN
SUPPORT THEREOF - Page 4**

1 engrafted onto the *Pioneer* analysis by some courts—weights in favor of the Movant.

2 In particular, there is no danger of prejudice to the Debtors in this case. Thus, the
3 first *Pioneer* factor weights in favor of the Movants. The Debtors' estates are solvent,
4 and all creditors stand to be paid. See, E.G., *In re Best Payphones, Inc.*, 523 B.R. 54, 75-
5 76 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2015) and *In re Sheehan Mem'l Hosp.*, 507 B.R. 802, 803 (Bankr.
6 W.D.N.Y. 2014) (where the Chapter 11 estate is solvent, “the proper remedy for a late
7 filing is not the expungement of a claim, but its allowance as a tardily filed claim only.).
8 Secondly, immediately upon receiving all the necessary information, the Subject Proof of
9 Claim was filed. Thirdly, the delay in filing the Subject Proof of Claim is reasonable
10 considering immediately upon becoming aware of the damages that arose from the North
11 Bay Fires, the Law Office of Robert M. Bone was retained in this matter and a proof of
12 claim was filed by the Law Office of Robert M. Bone on behalf of Movants. Lastly, any
13 prospect of prejudice beyond solvency is unlikely given that (a) all distributions have not
14 yet been made; and (b) the value of Movants' claims relative to the value fo Debtors'
15 estates is low. See, e.g., *In re Keene Corp.*, 188 B.R. 903, 910 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1995)
16 (size of the late claim in relation to the estate is a consideration in determining prejudice).

17 **IV.**

18 **Conclusion**

19 Based upon the foregoing, the Movants hereby request that the Court grant this
20 Motion and deem timely the Subject Proof of Claim.

21 WHEREFORE, the Movants pray for an order:

- 22 1. Granting the Motion in its entirety;
23 2. Finding that the Subject Proof of Claim filed by the Movants is to be
24 allowed as having been timely filed; and
25 3. Granting such other or further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

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28 **MOTION TO ALLOW/DEEM TIMELY LATE FILING OF PROOF OF CLAIM BY MOVANTS
KATHRYN MASON, MATTHEW MASON, CAROLINE MASON, AND NICHOLAS MASON, AND
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION OF ROBERT BONE IN
SUPPORT THEREOF - Page 5**

1 DATED: March 15, 2022

BLUESTONE FAIRCLOTH & OLSON, LLP

2 By _____
/S/ Jacob M. Faircloth

3 Jacob M. Faircloth
ATTORNEY FOR THE MOVANTS

4 **DECLARATION OF ROBERT M. BONE IN SUPPORT THEREOF**

5 I, Robert M. Bone, declare as follows:

6 1. I am over eighteen (18) years old and am competent to testify as to the
7 matters set forth hereinbelow, from my personal knowledge.

8 2. I am the sole owner of the Law Office of Robert M. Bone and am an
9 attorney licensed to practice in the State of California. If called upon as a witness, I
10 could and would competently testify as to the facts set forth in this Declaration, which are
11 made based upon my personal knowledge or information collected by my staff from
12 Kathryn Mason, Matthew Mason, Caroline Mason, and Nicholas Mason (“Movants”).
13 My office is also working with and associated on behalf of claimants in the California
14 North Bay Fire cases JCCP with Daniel Crowley and Associates, and Skikos, Crawford,
15 Skikos and Joseph, LLP.

16 3. Movants are survivors of the North Bay Fires which occurred in 2017.
17 Movants owned the real property located 306 Westbrook Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
18 (the “Property”). The Property, as well as personal property of the Movants, were
19 substantially damaged from smoke, soot, and ash. Moreover, the Movants were
20 displaced (after being required to evacuate) and suffered substantial personal damages,
21 nuisance, emotional distress due to proximity of the zone of danger, among other things.
22 Due to substantial trauma, relocation, and the immense pressure resulting from the
23 foregoing, the Movants did not become aware of the relevant bar dates in time to timely
24 file the claim. It was not until after the Extended Bar Date and Claims Questionnaire
25 Deadline that Movants realized their damages may be compensable and that they should
26 file a proof of claim for their losses.

27 5. I have met with the Movants to discuss their claim/case. After meeting

28 **MOTION TO ALLOW/DEEM TIMELY LATE FILING OF PROOF OF CLAIM BY MOVANTS
KATHRYN MASON, MATTHEW MASON, CAROLINE MASON, AND NICHOLAS MASON, AND
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION OF ROBERT BONE IN
SUPPORT THEREOF - Page 6**

with the Movants, I prepared the Subject Proof of Claim.

6. Thus, on February 24, 2022, I filed Claim No. 108259 on behalf of the Movants (“Subject Proof of Claim”). A true and correct copy of the Subject Proof of Claim is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and, by this reference, is incorporated herein.

7. Based on the foregoing, the Movants now bring this Motion to have the Subject Proof of Claim deemed timely.

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States and of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Santa Rosa, CA, on March 15, 2022.

/S/ Robert M. Bone

By: _____
Robert M. Bone

**MOTION TO ALLOW/DEEM TIMELY LATE FILING OF PROOF OF CLAIM BY MOVANTS
KATHRYN MASON, MATTHEW MASON, CAROLINE MASON, AND NICHOLAS MASON, AND
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION OF ROBERT BONE IN
SUPPORT THEREOF - Page 7**

EXHIBIT 1

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA (SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION)**

In re: PG&E CORPORATION, - and - PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, Debtors.	Bankruptcy Case No. 19-30088 (DM) Chapter 11 (Lead Case) (Jointly Administered)
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Proof of Claim (Fire Claim Related)

Read the instructions before filing this claim form. This form is for tort claimants who have a claim against the Debtors (i.e. PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company) that arose prior to the Debtors filing for bankruptcy (i.e. prior to January 29, 2019) and that arose from, or relates to, a fire.

Do not use this form for non-fire claims. Non-fire tort claimants should use Form 410.

Do NOT file a fraudulent claim. A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157, and 3571.

Please type or print in the spaces below. Do NOT use red ink or pencil.

Part 1: Identify the Claim

1. Who is the current creditor?	Kathryn Mason <small>Name of the current creditor (the person or entity to be paid for this claim)</small>		
2. Has this claim been acquired from someone else?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. From whom? _____	
3. Are you filing this claim on behalf of your family? <small>A family is a group of two or more people related by birth, marriage, domestic partnership, or adoption and residing together. All such people are considered as members of one family.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	If you checked "Yes", please provide the full name of each family member that you are filing on behalf of: Matthew Mason _____ Caroline Mason _____ Nicholas Mason _____	
4. Where should notices and payments to the creditor be sent?	Where should notices to the creditor be sent? Name <u>Kathryn Mason</u> Attorney Name (if applicable) <u>Robert M. Bone, Esq.</u> Attorney Bar Number (if applicable) <u>181526</u> Street Address <u>645 Fourth Street, Suite 205</u> City <u>Santa Rosa</u> State <u>CA</u> Zip Code <u>95404</u> Phone Number <u>7075258999</u> Email Address <u>bob@robertbonelaw.com</u>		Where should payments to the creditor be sent? (if different) Name <u>Kathryn Mason</u> Attorney Name (if applicable) <u>Daniel F. Crowley, Esq.</u> Attorney Bar Number (if applicable) <u>130261</u> Street Address <u>P.O. Box R</u> City <u>San Rafael</u> State <u>CA</u> Zip Code <u>94913</u> Phone Number <u>7075258999</u> Email Address <u>dcrowley@dcalaw.com</u>
5. Does this claim amend one already filed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Claim number on court claims registry (if known) _____		Filed on _____ <small>MM / DD / YYYY</small>
6. Do you know if anyone else has filed a proof of claim for this claim?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Who made the earlier filing? _____		

Part 2: Give Information About the Claim as of the Date this Claim Form is Filed

7. What fire is the basis of your claim?

Check all that apply.

Camp Fire (2018)

North Bay Fires (2017)

Ghost Ship Fire (2018)

Butte Fire (2015)

Other (please provide date and brief description of fire): _____

8. What are the loss location(s) where you and/or your family suffered harm? (e.g. home or business address, place of injury, place from which you were evacuated, if different.)?

Location(s): 306 Westbrook Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

9. How were you and/or your family harmed?

Check all that apply

Property Damage (homes, structures, personal property, land, trees, landscaping, and all other property damage)

Owner Renter Occupant Other (Please specify): _____

Personal Injury

Wrongful Death (if checked, please provide the name of the deceased) _____

Business Loss/Interruption

Lost wages and earning capacity

Loss of community and essential services

Agricultural loss

Other (Please specify): _____

Emotional Distress Zone of Danger and Nuisance

10. What damages are you and/or your family claiming/seeking?

Check all that apply

Economic damages (including replacement cost of damaged property, diminution in value, loss of use, lost inventory, lost profits, and other economic damage)

Non-economic damages (including loss of society and support, loss of consortium, pain and suffering, emotional distress, annoyance and discomfort, and other non-economic damage)

Punitive, exemplary, and statutory damages

Attorney's fees and litigation costs

Interest

Any and all other damages recoverable under California law

Other (Please specify): _____

11. How much is the claim?

\$ _____ (optional)

Unknown / To be determined at a later date

Part 3: Sign Below

**The person completing
this proof of claim must
sign and date it.
FRBP 9011(b).**

If you file this claim
electronically, FRBP
5005(a)(2) authorizes courts
to establish local rules
specifying what a signature
is.

**A person who files a
fraudulent claim could be
fined up to \$500,000,
imprisoned for up to 5
years, or both.
18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157, and
3571.**

Check the appropriate box:

- I am the creditor.
 I am the creditor's attorney or authorized agent.

I have examined the information in this *Proof of Claim* and have a reasonable belief that the information is true and correct.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature: Robert M. Bone
Robert M. Bone (Feb 24, 2022 19:07 PST)

Email: bob@robertbonelaw.com

Signature

Print the name of the person who is completing and signing this claim:

Name	Robert M. Bone		
	First name	Middle name	Last name
Title	Principal		
Company	Law Office of Robert M. Bone		
Identify the corporate servicer as the company if the authorized agent is a servicer.			
Address	645 Fourth Street, Suite 205		
	Number	Street	
	Santa Rosa		CA 95404
	City	State	ZIP Code
Contact phone	7075258999		Email bob@robertbonelaw.com

Attach Supporting Documentation (limited to a single PDF attachment that is less than 5 megabytes in size and under 100 pages):

I have supporting documentation.
(attach below)

I do not have supporting documentation.

PLEASE REVIEW YOUR PROOF OF CLAIM AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND REDACT ACCORDINGLY PRIOR TO UPLOADING THEM. PROOFS OF CLAIM AND ATTACHMENTS ARE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE TO VIEW ONLINE.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING REDACTING YOUR PROOF OF CLAIM AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION When you submit a proof of claim and any supporting documentation you must show only the last four digits of any social-security, individual's tax-identification, or financial-account number, only the initials of a minor's name, and only the year of any person's date of birth. If the claim is based on the delivery of health care goods or services, limit the disclosure of the goods or services so as to avoid embarrassment or the disclosure of confidential health care information.

A document has been redacted when the person filing it has masked, edited out, or otherwise deleted, certain information. The responsibility for redacting personal data identifiers (as defined in Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9037) rests solely with the party submitting the documentation and their counsel. Prime Clerk and the Clerk of the Court will not review any document for redaction or compliance with this Rule and you hereby release and agree to hold harmless Prime Clerk and the Clerk of the Court from the disclosure of any personal data identifiers included in your submission. In the event Prime Clerk or the Clerk of the Court discover that personal identifier data or information concerning a minor individual has been included in a pleading, Prime Clerk and the Clerk of the Court are authorized, in their sole discretion, to redact all such information from the text of the filing and make an entry indicating the correction.

Instructions for Proof of Claim (Fire Claim Related)

United States Bankruptcy Court

You may have a claim against the Debtors for monetary loss, personal injury (including death), or other asserted damages arising out of or related to a fire. You should consider obtaining the advice of an attorney, especially if you are unfamiliar with the chapter 11 process and privacy regulations.

A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both.
18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157 and 3571.

How to fill out this form

- Fill in all of the information about the claim as of the date this claim form is filed.
- If the claim has been acquired from someone else, then state the identity of the last party who owned the claim or was the holder of the claim and who transferred it to you before the initial claim was filed.
- For a minor child, fill in only the child's initials and the full name of the child's parent or guardian. For example, write A.B., a minor child (John Doe, parent). See Bankruptcy Rule 9037.
- You may but are not required to attach supporting documents to this form.
Supporting documents will be gathered, maintained, and provided at a later date as instructed by the Court. If you do attach documents, you should attach redacted documents as supporting documentation will be made publicly available and will not be kept confidential. See the definition of redaction of information below.
- Do not attach original documents because attachments may be destroyed after scanning.
- Question 3. Members of a family may but are not required to file a proof of claim as a family but may, if they choose, submit individual claim forms for each family member that has a claim against the debtors.

- Question 9. If you suffered property damage, then provide the street address of each real property parcel where you suffered property damage. If you were personally evacuated as the result of a fire, then provide the address or intersection closest to where you encountered the fire and began evacuation. If you suffered property damage and were evacuated from a different location, include both. If you were a renter, provide the address of your residence.
- Question 10. This question requests general statements of underlying facts relating to harm and is not intended to be exhaustive or preclusive.
- Question 11. You are not required to include a claim amount with your proof of claim. Providing a claim amount at this time is optional.

Confirmation that the claim has been filed

To receive confirmation that the claim has been filed, enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope and a copy of this form together with the original. You may view a list of filed claims in this case by visiting the Claims and Noticing Agent's website at <https://restructuring.primeclerk.com/pge>.

Understand the terms used in this form

Claim: A creditor's right to receive payment for a debt that the debtor owed on the date the debtor filed for bankruptcy. 11 U.S.C. §101 (5). A claim may be secured or unsecured.

Creditor: A person, corporation, or other entity to whom a debtor owes a debt that was incurred on or before the date the debtor filed for bankruptcy. 11 U.S.C. § 101(10).

Debtor: A person, corporation, or other entity who is in bankruptcy. In this instance, PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas & Electric Company.

Information that is entitled to privacy: A *Proof of Claim* form and any attached documents must show only the last 4 digits of any social security number, an individual's tax identification number, or a financial account number, only the initials of a minor's name, and only the year of any person's date of birth. If a claim is based on delivering health care goods or services, limit the disclosure of the goods or services to avoid embarrassment or disclosure of confidential health care information. You may later be required to give more information if the trustee or someone else in interest objects to the claim.

Proof of claim: A form that shows the creditor has a claim against the debtors on or before the date of the bankruptcy filing (in these cases, January 29, 2019). The form must be filed in the district where the case is pending.

Redaction of information: Masking, editing out, or deleting certain information to protect privacy. Filers must redact or leave out information entitled to privacy on the *Proof of Claim* form and any attached documents.

Offers to purchase a claim

Certain entities purchase claims for an amount that is less than the face value of the claims. These entities may contact creditors offering to purchase their claims. Some written communications from these entities may easily be confused with official court documentation or communications from the debtor. These entities do not represent the bankruptcy court, the bankruptcy trustee, or the debtor. A creditor has no obligation to sell its claim. However, if a creditor decides to sell its claim, any transfer of that claim is subject to Bankruptcy Rule 3001(e), any provisions of the Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.) that apply, and any orders of the bankruptcy court that apply.

Please send completed Proof(s) of Claim to:

If by first class mail:

PG&E Corporation Claims Processing Center
c/o Prime Clerk LLC
Grand Central Station, PO Box 4850
New York, NY 10163-4850

If by overnight courier or hand delivery:

PG&E Corporation Claims Processing Center
c/o Prime Clerk LLC
850 Third Avenue, Suite 412
Brooklyn, NY 11232

You may also hand deliver your completed Proof(s) of Claim to any of the following service center offices (beginning July 15, 2019 through the Bar Date (October 21, 2019) during the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Prevailing Pacific Time):

Chico Service Center
350 Salem Street
Chico, CA 95928

Marysville Service Center
231 "D" Street
Marysville, CA 95901

Napa Service Center
1850 Soscol Ave. Ste 105
Napa, CA 94559

Oroville Service Center
1567 Huntoon Street
Oroville, CA 95965

Redding Service Center
3600 Meadow View Road
Redding, CA 96002

Santa Rosa Service Center
111 Stony Circle
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Photocopy machines will not be available at the Claim Service Centers; you must bring a photocopy of your Proof of Claim if you wish to receive a date-stamped copy.

Do not file these instructions with your form